

Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The Applicant's United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/454,113, filed December 3, 1999, entitled POWERED SURGICAL HANDPIECE WITH SUCTION CONDUIT INCLUDING A STEPPED VALVE TO REGULATE FLOW THROUGH THE SUCTION CONDUIT, now U.S. Patent No. 6 436 067 and incorporated herein by reference, discloses one such powered surgical handpiece with a suction valve. The handpiece of this invention includes a valve with an indexing mechanism that provides tactile feedback when the valve is in an intermediate position between its fully open and fully closed states. This handpiece thus provides a surgeon with some ability to sense the position of the suction control valve when it is between its fully open and fully closed states.

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] Figure 9 is a cross sectional view of an alternative sub-assembly for rotatably securing the suction fitting to a complementary suction mount;~~and~~

After paragraph [0025] insert the following paragraphs:

[0025.1] Figure 11 is a plan and partially cutaway view of the front of a second suction valve; and

[0025.2] Figure 12 is a top view of a second handpiece.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] Figures 1 and 2 depict a surgical handpiece 20 of this invention. Handpiece 20 is designed to perform endoscopic surgical procedures though other handpieces of this invention may be designed to perform other types of surgical

procedures. The handpiece 20 includes an elongated housing 22 that functions as the body of the handpiece. A complementary cutting accessory 24 is attached to the front end, also known as the distal end, of the handpiece 20. A coupling assembly 26 attached to the distal end of the housing 22 releasably couples the cutting accessory to the handpiece. A motor 28 (Figure 3A3) is located inside of the housing 22. Power is supplied to the motor from a power supply, (not illustrated), through a power cable 29 attached to the rear end, also known as the proximal end, of the housing 22.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] As seen best by Figures 1 and 33A, the cutting accessory 24 includes inner and outer tubes 30 and 32, respectively. A static hub 34 is attached to the proximal, rear end of the outer tube 32. The static hub 34 is held to the handpiece 20 by coupling assembly 26 so as to hold the cutting accessory 24 to the handpiece. An inner hub 36 is fixed to the proximal end of the inner tube 30. The inner hub 36 extends through the coupling assembly 26 and into the open distal end of the housing 22. Inner hub 36 engages a drive shaft 39 that extends out from the forward end of motor 28. Thus, the actuating of the motor 28 results in the rotation of inner tube 30.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] The portion of the barrel 60 in stem bore 58 defines the valve bore 62. Bore 62 is shaped so that its openings 96 are non-circular. In the depicted version of the invention the openings into bore 62 are of teardrop or keyhole shape. That is the opening has a first large diameter section 102 that has a large-circular profile. The bore 62 is further formed so that section 102 tapers into a smaller diameter second section 104. Valve barrel 60 is further formed so that

the bore openings 96 are in opposite orientation on either side of the valve stem 56. Thus, in Figure 6, the depicted opening 96 is shaped so that large diameter section 102 is located towards or at the top of the page and small diameter section 104 is directed towards the bottom of the page. If one were to look at the opposite side of the valve depicted in Figure 6, it would be noted that ~~it was the small diameter section 104 of the opening 96, the opening 96 opposite the opening 96 depicted in the Figure, is closer to~~ Figure 6 is opposite and oriented toward the top of the page. The companion opening large diameter section 102 is directed towards the bottom of the page. Thus, the opening at the opposite side of valve barrel 60 is identical to the opening 96 shown in Figure 6, but is reversed by being reoriented 180°.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] Valve 50 is releasably held to housing 22 by a retaining pin 108 as best understood by reference to Figures 2, 4 and 7. Specifically, the retaining pin 108 is slidably fitted in bore 84 formed in the valve arm 64. An end of the pin 108 extends out of bore 84 and seats in an arcuately shaped groove 110 formed in the outer surface of the housing 22 adjacent the valve chamber, (Figure 7). Pin 108 has an overall length that is slightly less than the combined length of bore 84 and the depth of groove 110. In order to fit the valve 50 to the rest of the handpiece 20, both the housing 22 and valve are inverted. When the valve 50 is positioned so that bores 82 and 84 are upwardly directed, pin 108 is slip fitted in bores 82 and 84. When the valve 50 is so positioned ~~it is~~ pin 108 is wholly fitted in both bores 82 and 84. With the housing 22 and valve 50 ~~are~~ in the inverted states, the valve is seated in valve chamber 52. When the valve 50 is so seated, pin 108 ~~is~~ aligns with groove 110. The righting of the handpiece 20 causes the pin 108 to drop into groove 110. The

seating of pin 108 in groove ~~108~~110 rotatably holds the valve 50 to the housing. As pin 108 seats in groove 110, the end portion of the pin 108 in bore 82 drops out of that bore 82. A set screw or pin 112 is then secured in bore 82. Set screw 112 covers the end of bore 84 that opens into bore 82. The set screw 112 thus prevents the pin 108 from sliding into bore 82 to such an extent that the free end of the pin retracts out of groove 110. Thus, set screw 112 holds pin 108 in groove 110 so that the pin holds the valve 50 to the housing 22.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] The handpiece 20 of this invention has an indexing assembly 116 to facilitate the tactile-controlled setting of valve 50 by the surgeon. The indexing assembly 116, now described by reference to Figures 2, 4 and 7, includes a ball 118 that is seated in the open end of valve bore 86. A spring, ~~120~~119 fitted in the base of bore 86, exerts an outwardly directed force on the ball 118. Thus, when the valve 50 is coupled to the housing 22, ball 118 is urged against the outer surface of the housing.

Please replace paragraph [0070] with the following amended paragraph:

[0070] Moreover, alternative assemblies for removably holding the valve 50 to the housing 22 may be employed. For example, instead of mounting a pin in the valve, a retaining member may be mounted in the handpiece housing, such as in hole 204 shown in Figure 12. This member would engage a surface groove 202 of the valve shown in Figure 11 to removably hold the valve to the housing. The retaining member would be movably fitted to the housing, if not removable, to facilitate the ~~removable~~removal and reinstallation of the valve.